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**The Gazebo Spa: One of 5 Creative Ways to Use Your Garden Gazebo**

**By Deborah Boland**

The Gazebo Spa: One of 5 Creative Ways to Use Your Garden Gazebo

A gazebo is a great addition to any backyard because it gives it strength, charm and a focal point. But often garden gazebos sit empty because homeowners don't know what to do with them.

One solution is a Spa Gazebo – the perfect blend of beauty and functionality. Spa gazebos come in a variety of styles and allow you to enjoy a hot dip in the whirlpool rain or shine, or on a chilly fall evening.

Some are totally enclosed by walls. Others are more open with partial trellising or screens. They're wonderful if you like privacy and also help keep out pesky summer bugs.

The spa tub can be built into the ground or sit on the floor inside the gazebo. Spa gazebos look fabulous accented with pots of colorful flowers and baskets of crisply rolled towels in calming cool green and taupe colors.

Other Great Ways to use Your Garden Gazebo? Turn it into a:

·Home Office

With computer notebooks, high speed wireless internet connections and cell phones there's no need to stay stuck inside doing business. If you work at home, then take your office outdoors and enjoy the warm sun and fresh air while you're wheeling and dealing.

All you need to add is a desk, chair, some leather stackable filing boxes, and a bulletin board for the ultimate gazebo home office. Accent your space with accessories in warm earth tones—browns, greens, and terra cottas for a connected to nature feel.

Imagine how your clients will love coming to meetings in your wonderful outdoor living space!

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### ·Kid's Playhouse

Do you have children? A gazebo makes a fabulous kid's playhouse. Position the gazebo to the side of the house so you can keep an eye on the kids, and fill it with big pillows, a small table and chairs and a throw rug.

Keep your color scheme bright and fun in playful shades of red, blue, yellow and green. Then add plenty of toys like Lego, board games, coloring books, and stuffed animals for a playhouse they'll never want to leave.

An added bonus – a playhouse gazebo will keep kids safely shaded on very sunny days.

### ·Potting Shed

Transform your garden gazebo into a potting shed by equipping it with a potting bench, seed packs, foliage, interesting containers, and all your favourite garden tools.

Hang some garden gloves, wall planters and a garden apron or hat at various points along the inside of the gazebo. Make a statement by artfully placing a watering can full of flowers just outside the entrance.

Your favourite hobby now has a spectacular new home.

### ·Yoga Retreat

You can create the ultimate space for rest and spiritual rejuvenation inside your gazebo. An open air gazebo works best for this theme and the view is important.

Place your gazebo close to water—a swimming pool, a pretty pond, a rushing waterfall, or a trickling fountain so you can gaze out at the tranquil blue water and soak in its soulful sound.

Sheer curtains tied back inside the gazebo reveal the view and will also help give you that heavenly feel. Top it off with candles, a yoga mat and an Asian garden ornament to meditate on, and you will be in heaven.

So start thinking about how you'd like to use your garden gazebo and then play around with the look and feel. The possibilities for this timeless garden structure are endless. Just use your imagination.

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Deborah Boland is the host of the popular HGTV Canada TV series, Backyard Pleasures and author of Backyard Pleasures: 7 Simple Steps to Transform Your Ho-Hum Backyard into a Breathtaking Oasis. Sign up for her FREE e-course 7 Secrets to Creating Gorgeous Garden Rooms at

[www.backyardpleasures.com](http://www.backyardpleasures.com)

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## **Gazebos Add Style To Any Landscape**

### **By Gazebo And Deck Guide**

A gazebo can be a wonderful addition to a backyard landscape, adding an aesthetic appeal as well as a comfortable relaxation spot. If you are thinking about adding a gazebo to your backyard décor, you will want to consider the location where you plan to place your new structure.

Gazebo location is going to depend to a large extent on what you are planning to use your gazebo for. Is it a garden gazebo, a gathering place for friends and family on beautiful summer afternoons? Perhaps you'll be enclosing your gazebo and installing a hot tub or spa inside of it. How you use your gazebo will determine where you should build it. A garden gazebo might be located toward the back of your yard, in order to have friends walk through it. A hot tub shelter should probably be located closer to the door, to minimize the walk in a bathing suit.

Aesthetics are important: you may choose to highlight your structure by making it the center of attention or blend it in to your landscape and make it a secret hideaway. You should also be mindful of the building's relation to other structures that you may have on your property.

Think about the pros and cons of your preferred site in all four seasons. The surrounding foliage (and weather) can look very different from one season to the next. All of these considerations may have some impact on where you build your gazebo.

Choosing a size for your gazebo is the next important step. The key is to ensure that your space is large enough for its intended purposes, while remaining proportional to the surrounding environment. A general rule of thumb is that an 8' gazebo fits 2 people (2 chairs) and a small table. With every two-foot addition, two more people can be seated comfortably in the gazebo (for example, a 10' gazebo holds 4 people comfortably, a 12' gazebo holds 6 people comfortably, etc.).

Once you have decided on a size, it's a good idea to stake it out the dimensions in your yard to ensure that the fit is comfortable for your needs and that the location is harmonious with your landscape.

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